

On the 6th instant, the ironclad *Triomphant* and the *Dauphin* were seen steering north; presumably they will engage in the blockade of the Gulf of Pootung. It is stated that Admiral Courbet is determined not to go North until he has disabled the Ningpo river, and that he is now preparing a determined attack on the forts at Chinal and the ships there.

The Peking correspondent of the *Shanghai Courier*, writing on the 20th February, says—

The financial operations of the Empire have, it appears, been conducted from Tientsin, but one of the loans contracted by the Chinese by Mr. John Pender, the director of the Eastern Telegraph Company, although already sanctioned by Imperial decree, has come to grief, probably owing to the inability of the director of the Eastern Extension Company to find the money, 500,000 pounds, at the interest contracted for, since the arrival of the year's gift by the French Government, runs have been current that Prince Kung has been called upon to take again the direction of the Tsung-li Yamen.

On the 9th instant, John Bingham McFarlane, engineer, was tried at the Supreme Court at Shanghai on a charge of having committed manslaughter. Deceased was the adopted son of the accused. There was no evidence given to show that McFarlane actually fired the pistol. His statement to the jury was as follows:—He said that the pistol which Billy was shot was an ordinary revolver and had been in his (prisoner's) possession for some years; it was generally kept locked up in a drawer; but some time before the accident, owing to there having been some disturbances at night, he had taken the pistol out to examine it, and he had loaded three of the chambers. The child's mother had, in putting the pistol back in the drawer, unfortunately omitted to lock it. On the day on which the accident occurred he was changing his clothes when he noticed the boy Billy with his hand in the drawer, knowing the child was after the pistol, he came up to him and took the pistol from him, and it was in performing this act that the pistol went off. Prisoner then went on to say how much grieved he was at the accident, and to point out that he had a great interest in the child and had in fact supported and educated him for years.—The jury found the prisoner not guilty.

That the Straits Government are apparently rigidly enforcing the instructions regarding the treatment of belligerent vessels sent out by the home Government recently, the following extract from the *Straits Times* will show—

The French cruiser *Primarguet* returned yesterday from Tonquin and began coaling at the Bureau Company's wharf, and had some 84 tons put on board when the order came from the Government to stop her coal. We understand an order was issued by Government that no coal was to be supplied to the same French man-of-war or transport proceeding to Tonquin till a period of three months had elapsed. As the *Primarguet* only left Singapore on the 18th February and returned yesterday, she came clearly under the order. No blame, we hear, is attached to the employees of the Bureau Company's wharf, who knew nothing of such order, which was given to the Master-attendant, and who should have communicated at once to the managers of the different coaling wharves instead of pigeon-holing the order.

We yesterday noted the fact that the coaling of the French cruiser *Primarguet* had been temporarily stopped by the Marine authorities. The case of this wharf and proceeded outside the wharf limits, anchoring some five miles out. Later it was discovered that some tongs were alongside discharging coal into her, and the Marine authorities last night kept watch for the tongs, arresting the boatmen belonging to crew of the boat, at about midnight, and a third boat crew was arrested this morning by Capt. Huddle, the Harbour Master. These men have the names of the firm by whom they were employed and said that they took the coal on board at the Bureau Company's wharf. The authorities, we understand, are considering the question of proceeding against the firm.

The Inevitable War Squoeze.

The *Straits Times* of the 25th February publishes four out of twelve new regulations designed to increase the revenue and economies the cost of collection. Owing to the pressing need for measures of defence and the deficiency of funds for war expenses, Her Majesty the Empress Dowager during an audience commanded the Prince of Chen, in concert with the Tsungli Yamen and the Board of Revenue, to devise means of filling the exchequer. Twelve regulations were submitted to the Throne and received the Imperial sanction. The various High Provincial Authorities have been written to by express to give the new system an honest trial and after six months report the result to Peking. Sloth, negligence, prejudicial obstruction, will be denounced by the Board of Revenue.

Two of the new regulations, which concern foreign trade, are translated below. (3) A tea tax is to be levied at the tea-producing districts. The Tsungli Yamen report shows that during 1882-3 the export of tea was as much as 100 millions of taels odd. In the reign of Tso Kiang (1821-61) the duty levied by England on tea is estimated at Taels 50 per picul, while our export duty amounted to only Taels 25, or not one-tenth. It is now proposed to adopt measures to reform the tax on tea. Two methods are practicable. (1) The Kanash system of official chops may be followed, every 5 lbs. paying 3 mace. As the tax is paid by the growers, it may be easily increased without giving foreigners any ground to interfere. (2) The system of tea monopolies prevalent in Ningchow and other localities may be adopted, under which each lot pays Ta. 3 mace 9. In this case in the tea-producing districts officers will be established to examine the tea and issue tea-passes, distributed by the Board of Revenue. Each pass for 100 catties will pay Ta. 3 mace 9, and every customs-barrier in the interior through which the tea is carried will levy in addition tian and duty, and

after the pass is vised and stamped, let the trader go, so as to provide against the use of old passes and other trickery. All passes shall be annually applied for before-hand from the Board and shall be valid for one year only. This mode of collection will do no harm at all to foreign traders. Another improvement would be to remit all the inland charges herebefore made if double duty—i.e. Ta. 7.8—were paid on receiving the pass. But all duties leviable by the Foreign Customs at the ports and frontiers would still be payable under former laws. If the tea were for consumption inland, it would not pay duty or tian again, whatever province or place it was taken to for sale, and so, tian being charged into tax and many small payments being combined, examination would be facilitated, and, perhaps, smuggling avoided. But the various provincial authorities must be instructed to deliberate and report on what search regulations seem to them necessary to prevent smuggling and evasion of duties by the growers and traders.

(4) The system of farming out the opium duty is to be more widely adopted. When the opium duties of Canton were being provided for in 1874, the Provincial Treasurer invited the trader Huang Ching-yuan to farm the whole opium duties of the province for a period of five years, with a yearly increment of \$20,000. In 1881 the Viceroy of the Two Kwang was authorised by His Majesty to hand over the farming of the opium duties, for another period of five years, to the same trader, Li Yu-lung, at an annual rent of \$90,000. If all the provinces were able to follow the Canton system of inviting traders to farm the revenue, at rents as high as Taels 1,000,000 in the case of coast provinces, and several hundred thousand taels in the case of inland provinces, several millions of taels might be obtained. But as the characters of provinces differ, some perhaps could not adopt the system and would have to devise some other scheme.

The agreement of November 8, 1858, respecting Rules of Trade, etc., following on the Tientsin Treaty, lays down that the importer will sell opium only at the port. It will be carried into the interior by Chinese only, and only as Chinese property; the foreign trader will not be allowed to accompany it. The transit dues on it will be arranged as the Chinese Government see fit. Therefore, by treaty, foreigners have nothing to say as to the rates of duty on opium taken into the interior. It is now proposed that to Chinese dealers in opium, whether foreign or native drug, shall be issued Board of Revenue licences, and that they shall contribute, according to the licences held by them, to the war expenses. The licence will be either transport or stationary. In the former kind should be inserted the name, surname, and place of origin of the trader. Such licences, each of which will be for 10 catties, shall be applied for and issued on each catty shall be paid two mace. The licences will be vised at each customs barrier, and tian and duty paid besides. Each barrier shall enter on each licence the date at which the trader passed and seal and stamp the licence as proof thereof so as to prevent the use of old licences and other trickery. Goods unprovided with a licence shall be confiscated and the trader shall incur punishment. On the stationary shop-keeper's licences shall be given the owner's name and surname, the sign and locality of the shop. All shops, whatever the amount of their capital, shall annually contribute Taels 24. The licences shall be renewed once a year. No shop shall be permitted to be opened without a licence, and unlicensed dealers shall be punished. On account of the difficulties in the way of examining foreign opium after it has left the port and been scattered abroad throughout the country, and the need of some method to prevent the smuggling and illegal sale of opium, the various provinces must report on the regulations laid down by them before a uniform system can be adopted. Foreign opium that has not left the port will be dealt with under treaty and is not included in the present rule.

The real meaning of the above regulations seems to be that tea-growers are to be subjected to an additional tax, which will of course check production and raise the prices which foreigners have to pay; while opium dealers, having to pay higher duties after purchase will not be able to afford the former rates of selling opium. In short, the tea-trade and the opium-trade are to suffer. We advise those interested in these trades to look to it.

Foochow.

It is commonly reported that the tian on tea is either to be raised to Ta. 3.5, or to be increased by that amount. The total tian at present is said to be about Ta. 2.5, i.e., equal to the export duty. Merchants are naturally greatly disturbed by this rumour and indignantly denounce the proposed step as unjust, and contrary to treaty. I fear, however, that the tian being levied in the interior from Chinese on Chinese merchandise, the Chinese Government can raise it as they like without interference on the part of foreign powers. Meanwhile the announcement of the French that rice is to be considered contraband of war has sent up the price, and what will happen here, should no supplies come in during the next few months, is not difficult to guess, but most unpleasant to foresee. Of course a certain amount will come forward overland from Chinkiang; but the transport is very expensive, and there are some thousands of soldiers to feed besides the ordinary population. It is to be hoped that the protest said to have been made by England may have some effect.

The Pagoda claims—as reduced by the Commission—are to be paid by the Chinese. I do not hear that any compensation for the six months' delay in settling an evidently just demand is included in the amounts.

The Fuh-poh having been patched up will, it is reported, take up a position in Round Island Passage, which is, not too soon, to be blocked. I expect the French will be tempted to send a torpedo-boat to destroy the survivor of the 23rd August, as she will be visible from Matsun, and the passage is deep enough for a launch or even a small gunboat at high water.

In a month or two we shall have the usual frosts. I wonder who will become

of the Chinese torpedoes, if they are not lifted before then. Lifting torpedoes is rather tedious work, and I doubt the likelihood of the native officers attempting it. They will probably prefer losing the torpedoes to losing their lives. It will be somewhat lively for the vessels at the Sharp Peak Anchorage, when a shoal of contact torpedoes breaks loose from its moorings.

We enjoyed a spell of fine warm weather last week, which tempted the cricketers to play a match on Friday. The effects of want of practice were evident, as scores were very small, so that, though play did not begin before noon, the four innings were over by half-past five.

Training for the Spring Races began a fortnight ago. There are a good many ponies, but jockeys are few. I am glad to be able to report that Mr. Miller, whose leg was broken last December, is now well on the road to recovery, though it is hardly possible that he should ride this meeting.

CHINA SUGAR REFINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The following is the Report for presentation to the Shareholders of the China Sugar Refining Co., at the annual general meeting, to be held at the Office of the General Agents, at 12 o'clock noon, on Wednesday, the 18th March, 1895—

The General Agents beg to submit to the Shareholders their Report on the Working of the Refineries and a Statement of Accounts for the Year ended 31st December, 1884.

The estimated profits during the first half of the year under review enabled the General Agents and the Consulting Committee to declare an interim dividend of July last of 24 per cent, and it was anticipated that the realization of the unsold stock then on hand, and the working of the remaining portion of the year, would admit of a further dividend being declared at the end of the twelve months were wanted. The disastrous and unprecedented fall, however, which occurred in Sugar prevented the realization of these expectations, and the losses have been further aggravated by the keen competition to which the sale of the Company's products has been subjected in our local and neighbouring markets.

The Dividend paid on 4th August, 1884, amounted to \$36,000.00 and the Balance at Credit of Profit and Loss Account now stands at 13,274.03 which sum the General Agents and Consulting Committee have recommended to be carried forward to next year. It is observed that a provision of \$12,000.38 has been made to meet an expected deficit on the cost of outstanding shipments.

The low prices that have ruled in the market for opium have been a great disadvantage to the Company, as it has been obliged to purchase considerable quantities of raw sugar for the requirements of the Refinery, and the advance that has just taken place in the London market makes the Stock laid in good value.

The works at East Point were stopped for the first time during January, and resumed work on 2nd February.

The extensions at Kwai-wei are completed, and the Refinery there is in a position to do excellent work both in Refining and Bleaching, and a return to a more healthy state of affairs is being made in the development in the Company's operations at that port.

The Distillery is working satisfactorily, but its net results are also seriously affected by the low price of Rum, which has fallen in sympathy with the depression in the value of Sugar.

Debtors' Bonds.—The amount outstanding is \$140,000; \$80,000 having been paid off on 30th June, 1884.

Consulting Committee.—The present members offer themselves for re-election.

The Accounts have been audited by Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co., Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co., stated that on the 11th inst. they were Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co., with some copies, to get 50 cases of brandy.

The cases were carried by the *Tea*, the collector was told to take them to the godown, whether or not he himself. The cases only brought 45 cases to the godown and the reported loss of 5 cases was compensated the godown keeper yesterday to the Central Market and also followed the defendants and two other men to Circular Pathway.

First defendant stated that the second defendant did not carry the basket, and he did not know what it contained.

Mr. Denys, on behalf of the second defendant stated that the brandy had not been identified.

The case was remanded until Monday next, bail being allowed to second defendant in two sureties of \$50 each or one of \$100.

Chinkiang. 4th March, 1895.

In consequence of the prohibition of the export of Rice, business here is very dull. Large quantities of Wheat and Rice which have been shipped by the river steamers have all landed again from the steamer hulks.

During the past week upwards of 1,500 native boats have passed through with Rice for Soochow.

Nova has been received here to-day that the light-ship *Cooper Island* was captured by pirates on the night of 2nd inst., and that the first and second lightkeepers were brutally murdered and the place plundered. The miscreants, up to date, are at large. —*Shanghai Courier*.

SUPREME COURT.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.
(Before the Hon. J. Russell, P. J. Judge.)
Friday, March 13.

HONGKONG HOTEL CO., v. H. S. BOWLES.—\$122.90.

Mr. Bowles (in the office of Messrs. Waring and Deacons) appeared for the plaintiff.

When the case was called, the Judge's clerk (Mr. Holworthy) stated that defendant, who was not present, had admitted the debt. His Lordship said that he was not satisfied; defendant must appear himself, and admit H. S. Bowles's debt, and he admitted the debt. Judgment, with costs.

LAI LEE v. ALMA TANNER.—\$12.

Plaintiff claimed wages for working to defendant as chair carrier. Defendant said her house (in Beaufort Street) had been broken into during her absence at Macao. She had reason to believe plaintiff was concerned in the matter, and she therefore dismissed him. It was true that plaintiff had been charged by the Police Court, and discharged, but she had fresh evidence to bring against him. She had told the Police this, but they said it was too late now.

His Lordship said defendant had surely made some mistake, as the Police could not refuse to hear the case. He would allow this case until next Friday to give defendant an opportunity of again charging the plaintiff at the Police Court.

LI LEE v. ALMA TANNER.—\$36.85.

Plaintiff is a tailor, and charged the above for goods (dresses, etc.) supplied to defendant. Defendant admitted she ordered and received the goods, but denied her liability for them. Plaintiff, she said, introduced a 2nd March, 1895, was completely wronged on the morning of the 3rd. She raised the night before. The loss of the enemy, both at Tuyen-quang, which they attacked with fire, and the details of the River Chien yesterday and to-day were considerable.

THE POSITION OFF NINGPO. Ningpo, March 4th.—The French men-of-war are lying between Yu Island and the mainland. The French sent off some torpedoes, but they struck upon the Peak Rock. Yesterday the French were seen sending out a torpedo boat to Yu and Tiger Islands. The French have been observed on Yu; it is supposed they are throwing up forts there.

March 4th, 4.35 p.m.—There has been fighting at Chinkiang, and a torpedo attack; but without result. There is no appearance, at present, of the establishment of a blockade, and a good opening still exists forty feet in width. Some apprehension is felt in the British Settlement with regard to lives and property, and further assistance is required in case of an improper proceeding on the part of native infantry should they sustain a defeat.

March 7th.—The movements of the fleets are unchanged.

(From Chinese sources.)

March 4th.—Engagements took place between the Chinese and French on the 1st and 3rd instants. The Chinese got the best of it. Seven shells were fired from the Chinese ships and forts, and two French men-of-war were struck.—*N. C. D. News*.

THE TIENTSIN TRADE. The Courier understands that the shippers to the North have been in considerable doubt as to the probability of success of the year's return for them, a conference of the chief steamship men, and the managers of the three great steamer lines has been held, at which it was decided to make up freight on goods up this season to 7.50 per ton, and to reduce the rate to 6.50 per ton, 1,000 value these rates to cover all risks of whatever kind, and consequences of any hostilities, and of loose torpedoes in the Peiho included.

The first batch of steamers left on the morning of the 6th instant, and were all searched by Russian troops from the mouth of the North Channel. The steamers were the *Indo-China*, *Co. Kowshing*, and *Yang Shing*, Messrs. Russell's *Hean* and *Yang Shing*, and Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's *Wanchang* and *Chang King*. The Courier understands that orders had been given to the Captains not to race this year.

PRESECUTION OF FOREIGNERS IN THE INTERIOR.

Recent intelligence has been received from the province of Yunnan, respecting a decree issued by Chi-en-kong-pao (the Viceroy) for the destruction of all Roman Catholic converts. The order was said to include all foreigners. According to information received several Roman Catholic villages were destroyed and some hundreds of converts killed; two foreign Priests were also missing. This deplorable news appears to find corroboration in the fact that the Tachai of Shanghai on the 4th inst. informed the various Consuls there that he was in receipt of a notification from the Viceroy of Nanking, who asked him to bring to the notice of all foreign residents to Shanghai the fact that in consequence of some serious disturbances which had lately taken place in the province of Kweichow between natives and foreigners, missionaries or other Europeans, who intended to visit the province in question, should refrain from doing so for the present. It is now feared that the decree issued by Chi-en-kong-pao has been carried into effect, but to what extent it remains to be disclosed.

THE YUN-NAN ARMY DEFEATED IN KONGKING.

The following telegram from General Boire du 11st was received in Shanghai on the 8th inst.—

Tuyen-quang, 3rd March.—Returning from Loung-shan, I marched with a brigade to Tuyen-quang, which had been besieged since the 20th January by the Yunnan army and the Black Flags under Liu Jung-fu. We met the Chinese on the River Chien. The 2nd March, the Chinese were completely routed on the morning of the 3rd. Siege raised the night before. The loss of the enemy, both at Tuyen-quang, which they attacked with fire, and the details of the River Chien yesterday and to-day were considerable.

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NEWS BY THE ENGLISH MAIL.

THUNDERING OF NEBBENK. London, Feb. 13.—General Barle's column has gained an important victory over the Arabs.

General Barle found the Arabs occupying a strong position among the rocks at Kerbekan, and it was at once decided to make an attempt to capture it.

On Tuesday General Barle's force surrounded the Arab camp, and commenced an attack.

The Black Watch, who fought with conspicuous gallantry, stormed the rocks, and soon made an impression on the enemy.

The Staffordshire Regiment, who also displayed great bravery, stormed the high hills on which the Arabs had assembled.

The Arabs offered a desperate resistance, and it was not until after five hours' severe fighting that they were dislodged and defeated.

The cavalry captured their camp.

There was a great slaughter of Arabs. Their leader and several officers were killed. A few Arabs escaped by swimming the river.

General Barle was killed while leading the attack in the early part of the battle, when Colonel Brackenbury took command.

The British loss is slight.

Lord Wolsey is expected to arrive at Gabut on Sunday.

RUSSIAN SIGHT TO BE "SMASHED." London, Feb. 17.—The *Pall Mall Gazette* announces that the Cabinet has decided that it is necessary to maintain England's fleet in Egypt and the East by defeating the Mahdi.

If General Sir R. Buller thinks that Gordon is still holding out with a forlorn hope, he may push on.

Otherwise Lord Wolsey will summer at Berber, and advance on Khartoum in September.

It has also been decided to smash Osman Digna with a force advancing from Suakin under an independent command.

No advance from Suakin will be made for two months.

There are great objections to employing Indian troops from the regular army. General Buller will clear the rebels out of Helwan.

TERMS OF THE FRANCO-BURUNDI TREATY. Yangoon, Feb. 13.—The recent treaty between Burmah and France, which the *Shan States* east of Salween to France. A cession of the ruby mines of Mogoke is made to a French syndicate. For protective purposes 400 French soldiers will be supplied. A Burmese Ambassador will

permanently reside in Paris. The Burmese may import any quantity of arms and ammunition through Yangoon. The French promise protection against encroachment by any other Power.

REPORTED RECAPTURE OF RHAMO. The Burmese at Mandalay say that Rhamo has been recaptured from the Chinese. Chin-dwin, one of the rebel leaders, has accepted an amnesty. Four of them are still at large.

MANDALAY MURDER. Ramgan, Feb. 16.—The local papers publish a telegram from Mandalay announcing fresh murders in the palace. A youth, the son of the Thongrai Prince, together with all his followers, was killed last week.

The reported recapture of Rhamo by the Burmese is unconfirmed.

RHAMO IN THE HANDS OF THE CHINESE. Ramgan, Feb. 16.—Father Gaudon, Roman Catholic priest living on the opposite bank to Rhamo, reports that the Chinese in possession of the town are using up missionaries' libraries in the manufacture of gun wads.

INDIAN FRONTIER NEWS. The frontier correspondent of the Lahore paper writes that Russian agents continue to come and go freely to and from Kabul, and are treated with honour and consideration. Two of the most important of these agents are supposed to be Faozine and Kurinski. The general feeling in Afghanistan is one of apprehension of impending trouble and fighting. Traders have received commissions to purchase of firearms and ammunition for the Russian army.

THE GREAT FORCE, ARRIVAL OF SIR REDVERS BULLER. Korti, Feb. 16.—News has been received from Sir Redvers Buller that he and the 18th Regiment arrived at Oubai on the 11th inst., and that he expected to make an attack on Mehemmed Ali on the 15th inst.

It has transpired that a large number of the garrison at Berber were advancing to reinforce the garrison at Mehemmed, but that on hearing of the victory of our troops at Oubai, they hastily returned to Berber.

THE DEPARTURE OF THE TROOPS FOR EGYPT. Cairo, Feb. 18.—A telegram received to-day from Lord Wolsey states that the rebels are deserting guns and ammunition from Khartoum to Mehemmed.

A CONVOY OF WOUNDED ATTACKED BY THE REBELS. A party of rebels attacked a convoy of our wounded eight miles from Gabut, but after an hour's skirmish the enemy retired.

DEPARTURE OF THE TROOPS FOR EGYPT. Cairo, Feb. 18.—The first batch of the British troops left here for Egypt yesterday.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAVE DECLINED THE CANADIAN AND VICTORIAN CONTINGENTS. believing that they will arrive too late to be of service.

Queneau has also offered volunteers for the Sudan.

ITALY IN THE RED SEA. Rome, Feb. 14.—A third expedition, consisting of fourteen hundred Italian troops, will leave for the Red Sea on Thursday next.

FALSE ALARM OF THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE. London, Feb. 14.—A report current yesterday that the Russians had occupied Herat caused quite a panic on the Stock Exchange here. The market, however, recovered, and consols closed last evening at 90½.

The report was, however, without foundation.

THE AFGHAN BOUNDARY QUESTION. London, Feb. 16.—The *Times* publishes a paragraph stating that M. Lessar, in his negotiations with the Afghan Government with regard to the Afghan boundary, maintained that, through the submission of the *Solur* *Amir* to the Russian rule, the authority of Russia has been established as far as the western spurs of the Pamirs are concerned, which is the only practicable frontier between Russia and Afghanistan. The authority of the *Amir* of Afghanistan on the Murghab cannot extend below Pajand, and the district of Badkush will be appropriated by Russia with the Kuskul Valley as the eastern frontier of that country.

The British Government have rejected the claim thus set forth, and M. Lessar is now awaiting further instructions on the subject from his Government.

THE REMOVED RUSSIAN ADVANCE ON HERAT. London, Feb. 17.—The *Standard*, in its leading article to-day, announces that the Russian recently prevailing here that the Russians were marching on Herat is entirely without foundation, and that M. de Giers has informed the Afghan Government that no steps have been taken towards the occupation of Herat by the Russian Government in consequence of their declarations to England in 1873.

A RUSSIAN THREAT. St. Petersburg, Feb. 17.—The *Journal de St. Petersburg* publishes an article to-day which says that the Russian stay of Sir Peter Lushanoff near the Russian frontier is calculated to unfavourably influence the Afghan against Russia, and that unless England places some restraint upon any exhibition of unfriendliness towards Russia by the Afghan, Russia must rely upon her own resources.

MOVEMENTS OF TROOPS FOR EGYPT. London, Feb. 20.—The First Battalion Coldstream Guards started yesterday for Egypt.

London, Feb. 21.—General Graham started for Suakin yesterday.

London, Feb. 22.—The Third Battalion Grenadier Guards and Second Battalion Fusiliers embarked for Egypt yesterday.

ABU KLEA. Cairo, Feb. 20.—Lord Wolsey telegraphs that five hundred of the enemy kept up a continual fire from a distance on the British position at Abu Klea on the afternoon of the 16th. The British loss was 2 killed and 14 wounded; the officers wounded were Capt. Paget of the 7th Hussars and Capt. Walsh of the 18th Regiment.

General Buller had every confidence that was secure from a close attack and would retire to Gadul on the arrival of additional transport.

(L. & C. Express, February 6.)

The China Shipper's Mutual Steam Navigation Company (Limited) have purchased a new steamer to add to their line. The vessel is at present on the stocks at the yard of Messrs. Barclay, Dixon, and Co., at Millersburg-on-Tyne. She is a vessel of 4,500 tons gross; and the following dimensions, viz. length, 332 feet; breadth, 38 feet; and depth (moulded), 27 feet. Her engines, which will be constructed by Messrs. R. Richardson and Sons, of Harrogate, are of the new three cylinder type, or triple expansion, as they are generally called, having cylinders of 26 inch, 42 inch, and 66 inch, and a stroke of 42 inch. Her estimated speed is 11½ knots per hour, on an exceedingly small consumption of coal.

The vessel will carry about 4,000 tons of tea, and is to be delivered in the East expected to leave for the Straits and China about the middle of May.

The French Government

two more vessels, the *Fulham* and *Suez*, which will sail from Marseilles for Pondicherry about the 25th inst., with 4,000 tons of coal. These vessels belong to the *Chien-yu* Company. The *Albatross* (Misses' service) *Maritime* Company, with a last outward China, has taken a quantity of materials for the erection of barracks at Koolung.

The *Albatross*, one of the regular steamers of the German Steam Ship Company, sailing from Hamburg with full equipment and munitions for the Chinese Government. She is now on her way to the Far East, having just left her usual route.

Colonel Dugano, who was in command of the French troops when the *Bac-Le* incident occurred and who was recalled to France, is a passenger outward by the chartered transport *Nantes* for China. He is to command the 2nd Battalion of African Infantry and 4th Battalion of the Foreign Legion in Formosa.

The French Government has forwarded to the Far East for use in Yunnan 4,000 more Krupachek repeating rifles.

